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"BAREE, SON OF KAZAN"

Author:  
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Director:  
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Seven Reels Drama

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Synopsis

Baree's father was Kazan, a dog, and his mother was Gray Wolf. He is half grown when first he sees a human creature. This is Jim Carvel, who, having shot a man for killing his (Carvel's) father, is hiding in the northwestern forests. Jim wants to make friends with the frightened Baree, but in trying to clutch him, falls from a bank and breaks a leg.

Pierrot, a trapper, and his young daughter, Nepeese, come upon Carvel, unconscious, and take him to their cabin. When Carvel has recovered, he leaves, to the sorrow of the innocent girl. Father and daughter accompany him for a short distance and in returning, see, as they think, a wolf cub. Pierrot fires, but misses, and the terrified animal escapes. It is Baree.

To trade his furs, Pierrot goes to the post at Lac Bain, taking Nepeese with him. McTaggart, the factor, proposes himself to Pierrot as a future son-in-law. The trapper, incensed, but hesitating to antagonize the factor, plays for time, and Nepeese says that in due season she will answer for herself, to send McTaggart to her.

Baree is caught in one of McTaggart's rabbit snares, and the factor, after being bitten, beats him, and imprisons him in his blanket. He carries the dog with him to Pierrot's cabin. Nepeese recognizes the dog of the woods and takes him from McTaggart. The dog, released, snarls at the factor, and McTaggart is about to kill him when Nepeese interferes. As McTaggart tries to caress the girl the dog fastens his teeth in his leg. The factor tries to shoot but Nepeese gathers Baree in her arms. Nepeese leads McTaggart to a rock overlooking the river. The factor gathers the girl in his arms, but she, freeing herself, pushes him headlong into the stream. That is her answer.

McTaggart nurses his hand which Baree had bitten, and bides his time. He writes to Pierrot asking the trapper to relieve him at the trading post as he wants to get away for a few weeks. Pierrot starts for the post. On the way, he finds tracks in the snow leading from the main trail and toward the cabin. He returns. As McTaggart appears suddenly at the cabin, surprising Nepeese, Baree leaps upon him. The factor prepared, fires, and the dog falls. Nepeese tries to escape but McTaggart intercepts her. He is bending to kiss her when Pierrot confronts him. There follows a desperate fight, each man knowing it is one's life or the other's. Pierrot is winning the upper hand when McTaggart kills him with a bullet.

Nepeeese escaping, dashes out and down the path to the river, McTaggart stumbling after her. The girl reaches the rock and before he can intercept her, leaps over the ledge. Baree, meanwhile, roused from his stupor, tries vainly to find the girl. The factor returns to the cabin, wishing to cover his act, buries Pierrot's body outside, and then burns the cabin.

Carvel settled in his cabin, miles away, receives a visitor. He recognizes in the small-pox victim, a member of the North-West Mounted Police. His conscience wins out, and Jim makes the man comfortable and nurses him back to health. When the constable has recovered, Jim invites his own arrest, to learn that he is no longer wanted, as Hardy had recovered and confessed. The indictment had been dismissed.

Weeks pass, during which time McTaggart is constantly finding his traps stripped of their bait. This is Baree's work. For night upon night the struggle between a man's intelligence and a dog's instinct continues, but finally Baree is himself caught in a trap. McTaggart gloats over his catch, and leaves the poor dog to die. Carvel frees Baree and the two start south. At length they come upon the tepee of Tuboa and are amazed to find Nepeeese there. Tuboa and his squaw had rescued her from the river and nursed her back to health.

McTaggart is told of Nepeeese whereabouts and finding her alone in the tepee, enters. As she sees him, she screams in horror. Baree hearing, rushes in. Jim follows toward the tepee and Nepeeese stumbles out into his arms. The two, embracing, wait outside, while the sound of snarls and groans come from within, as Baree pays his debt to McTaggart. Finally quiet comes. Then Baree walks slowly and out, and gives vent to the call of the wolf.

Their enemy is silenced forever, and Jim, Nepeeese and Baree start out on the trail to the priest's house.

The end.

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April 16th, 1925

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"BAREE, SON OF KAZAN"

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Signed Eddie Phillips  
(Claimant of Copyright)

(Sept. 1924-500)

G. J. Lantier

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